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PROCESS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation

The conclusion of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms was a real step forward in the field of nuclear disarmament and a major achievement of 1993. The Russian-American declaration adopted on 4 April 1993 in Vancouver confirmed that Russia and the United States are moving resolutely towards the earliest possible entry into force of the SALT I Treaty and ratification of SALT II. These agreements, which greatly reduce the level of nuclear danger, open real possibilities for involving other nuclear Powers in this process.

In the next two years these efforts could be directed essentially to elaborating a package of agreements which would ensure a total and comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. In this connection to begin as soon as possible preferably in the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, multilateral consultations or talks on the banning of nuclear-weapon tests, taking into account the special role which the five nuclear Powers play in this area.

Among the priorities of multilateral disarmament, first and foremost nuclear disarmament, Russia attaches particular importance to the clear and consistent implementation of the agreements that have already been concluded.

In this context, implementation of agreements in the sphere of nuclear disarmament in the territory of the former USSR is of great importance, through the speediest possible accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan and of Ukraine, and also the other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States which have not yet taken the corresponding steps, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons as non-nuclear States. Russia strictly observes these Treaties and is prepared to assist the parties concerned in the implementation of the obligations undertaken by them pursuant to these agreements.

As we draw closer to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which is scheduled for 1995, the international community must mobilize its efforts to the maximum degree with a view to strengthening the regime of this Treaty. The forthcoming Conference can be an important stage in conferring on the Treaty a global and permanent character.